

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

Hello Fall!

It is hard to believe we are three months into the year. For those of you with a one year term, it means you are already a quarter of the way through the term! I hope you are settled into your roles and working to do great things for the kids and families at your sites. I am loving hearing about all the programs and events PTAs are doing. Thank you to the units who have invited Ninth District PTA to attend your events. It was an honor to be invited to Vista Unified SEPTA's Welcome Back Bash last month. I greatly enjoy spending time with the kids, families and volunteers - it was a wonderful evening. As mentioned before, Ninth District PTA would love to be invited to your events, so keep the invitations coming. We are also available to help your unit, whether that be attending a meeting, providing training, or something else. We are here to support you!

As we are all getting settled into this term, please remember membership goes all year. To be a PTA, you need at least 15 members. Remittance for the required minimum 15 members is due to Ninth District PTA by November 15. Check with your council PTA for their specific due date. Of course, don't stop at 15 members. Keep encouraging parents, staff, community members, etc. to become a member of your PTA/PTSA. The more members who join your PTA, the stronger your voice for kids. Please make sure any manual memberships - any membership collected in any form outside of Totem- gets remitted through channels to Ninth District PTA. CAPTA has membership challenges and incentives running throughout this year and we would love to see our units participate and be recognized <https://capta.org/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/membership/2025-2026-membership-challenges/>

Also, I wanted to share a couple of events coming up later in the year that you should consider attending. The first is the CAPTA Legislation Conference, February 2-3, 2026 in Sacramento, CA. This is a great opportunity to learn about and see PTA's advocacy work in action. Registration opens this month! <https://capta.org/programs-events/legislation-conference/> The second event is the CAPTA Convention, May 1-3, 2026 in Fresno, CA. This 3-day convention is an amazing opportunity for training, networking with other PTA leaders from across the state, and includes the annual meeting of the association. <https://capta.org/events/california-state-pta-convention-2026/> Both of these events are allowable expenses in your PTA budget, and we strongly encourage your units/councils to participate.

-- by Anne Emfinger (President)
president@ninthdistrictpta.org

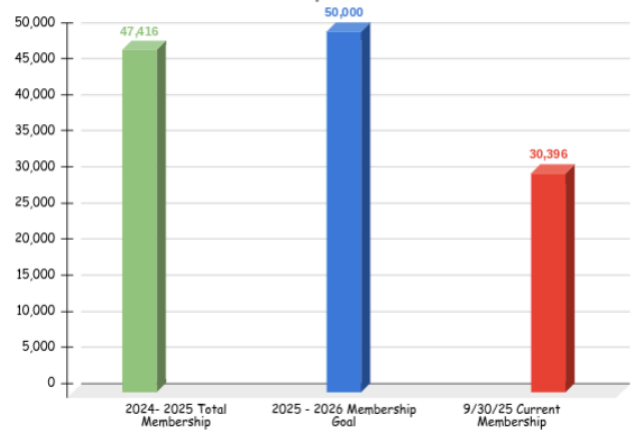




Ninth District PTA 2025-2026 Membership Goal

During 2024-2025 we had a total of 47,416 (green) PTA members. Our goal for 2025-2026 is 50,000 (blue) PTA Members. As of September 30, 2025 we have 30,396 (red) PTA Members. Keep up the great teamwork, and your membership drive!

Ninth District PTA Membership Goal 2025-2026



Ninth District PTA Program Grants 2025-2026

The Ninth District PTA is offering Program Grants to unit and council PTAs/PTSAs to implement programs or events that support the PTA's mission statement and goals. **Please apply - it's easier than you think!** The Ninth District PTA Grant Program is partially funded with the \$1 per member dues forwarded through channels. Grants are available for programs in the following areas at the unit and council levels: Advocacy, Health and Welfare, Parent/student education, and Parent/student involvement. Ninth District PTA grants are a *one-time funding source* and individual awards will not exceed \$750. If you are thinking "if we just had an extra \$750 we could try this new program," now is the time to act! Funds must be used or returned by May 31, 2026. All requested paperwork must be completed and included for an application to be considered. The PTA applying for the grant must have association approval for the program. Examples of recent programs that have been funded: Art night for students and families, furnishings for a mental health "chill space" open to all students, supply closet for toiletries and clothing open to all students, 8-week program on World Music, school garden or orchard, and student lunch clubs.

Ninth District PTA Program Grants 2025-2026

The deadline for grant applications is noon on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025. Please submit the application to the Ninth District PTA via email to communityconcerns@ninthdistrictpta.org OR online via Google Forms by going to this link: <https://forms.gle/kEq2WQYBLnEnBxAT9>. You may also print and mail your application and supporting documents to the Ninth District office at 6401 Linda Vista Rd, Annex A, San Diego CA 92111 to be received by Oct 21st. Ninth District PTA will not consider applications received after the deadline. You may print the application that follows to send by mail.

Grant recipients must:

- **Submit a report detailing the project's initial goals, outcomes, expense report, photos (and video if possible,) AND any remaining funds no later than May 31, 2026.**

The Ninth District PTA Grant Committee will select grant recipients and the decision of the committee is final. Ninth District PTA will notify each grant award recipient by October 31, 2025. Grant recipient names will be included in the Ninth District PTA Annual Meeting/Founders' Day program.

Criteria

- Your PTA/PTSA must be in Good Standing; i.e., required officers, minimum number of membership dues paid and insurance paid. *The due date for insurance falls after the grant application deadline this year. We recommend that you pay your insurance as soon as the insurance payment portal opens and via ACH for immediate credit. If the insurance is not paid by the due date, the Ninth District PTA will request the PTA to return the grant funds.*
- The PTA applying for the grant must sponsor the program or event
- Only one completed application will be accepted from each unit or council
- No payment of salaries or purchase of equipment will be considered
- No grants will be awarded for Grad Night or Disaster Preparedness materials
- Honoraria for program speakers may be listed as grant expenses
- New programs/events, high percentage of students or community served, and financial need to be given strong consideration by the committee

If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Mueller at communityconcerns@ninthdistrictpta.org or 619-838-1500.

[Ninth District PTA Program Grants Application 2025-2026](#)

CAPTA Program Grants

CAPTA Program Grants (Deadline is October 15 at 11:59 p.m. PDT):

- Parent Education
- Cultural Arts

- Outreach Translation
- Healthy Lifestyle

For more information on the CAPTA Program Grants, please click on the following link: [CAPTA Program Grants](#)

CAPTA Scholarships

CAPTA Scholarships (Deadline is October 15 at 11:59 p.m. PDT):

- Continuing Education Scholarships
- Graduating High-School Senior Scholarships

For more information on the CAPTA Scholarships, please click on the following link: [CAPTA Scholarships](#)

Treasurer

Treasurers, you're halfway to your mid-year financial review! Now is a great time to check in with the [Financial Review Checklist](#) to ensure you're following all PTA financial procedures. Staying on top of things now can save you a scramble in December.



Two common issues found during financial reviews are:

1. **Bank Reconciliations** - Make sure your bank statements are reconciled monthly.
2. **Signatures** - A non-signer must review and sign off on each bank statement.

Also, double-check that **all payment authorizations** include:

- The **president's and the secretary's signatures**, and
- The **date the expenditure was approved** in meeting minutes.

A Quick Tip on Donation Recording

Did you know that when your PTA receives donations through platforms like **Totem** or **PayPal**, you must record the *full donation amount* as income and the *associated fees* as expenses?

For example:

- A \$30.00 donation through Totem may result in your PTA receiving \$28.50.
- Totem withholds \$1.50 (5%) as a fee.
- Your records should reflect:
 - **\$30.00 as income (donation)**
 - **\$1.50 as a bank/processing fee expense**

This applies to **all donation platforms**, including PayPal. However, you **do not** need to record the **\$1.00 Totem fee per membership**, as that is paid directly by the member.

Staying on top of these small but important details will help ensure your mid-year review goes smoothly!

-- by Deborah Childers (Treasurer)
treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

Council? What's That? Who's My Council?

A council is a group of PTAs organized under the authority of California State PTA for the purpose of collaboration, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of the member associations.

Ninth District PTA includes fourteen councils along with forty out of council associations. Each council has assigned mentors from Ninth District PTA. The council is the first line support/mentor for associations within that council area with support from Ninth District PTA. Ninth District PTA mentors are the first line support for those out of council associations.

Our councils can provide support in the following areas:

1. Opportunity to share information about programs and vendors during council meetings
2. Collaboration time with others doing your role at another school site
3. Mini-trainings as new information becomes available
4. Regular collaboration with school district leaders
5. A mentor to attend a meeting with you if you feel you need support in the room
6. Modeling good procedures and leadership skills in: running a meeting, fiduciary responsibility, elections, etc.
7. Offering guidance and encouragement for new officers

If you are unsure if your association is part of a council or an out of council association, contact our PTA office at office@ninthdistrictpta.org and we can connect you with your council or your out of council Ninth District PTA mentor.

One of the differences and huge benefits of being a PTA/PTSA is support is always available.

-- by Denae Senise (Vice President, Leadership Director), & Sue King (Parliamentarian)
leadership@ninthdistrictpta.org & parliamentarian@ninthdistrictpta.org

Welcome to the PTA

Chollas Mead Elementary PTA - San Diego Unified Council -
 September 4, 2025 (picture on the right)
 Boston Global HS PTSA - Cajon Valley Council - June 11, 2025



Reflections Art Program - I Belong!

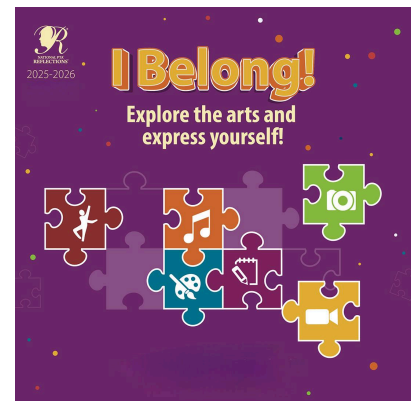
We hope your Reflections Art Program is going well at your unit and council levels!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Zoom training earlier this month and to connect with many of you via email. If you haven't already filled out the Google Form we sent to all presidents and Reflections chairs in July, please take a moment to do so. Completing the form ensures you'll stay in the loop and have access to resources: [Google Form Link](#).

As a reminder, the due date for councils and out-of-council units to submit entries to Ninth District PTA is December 2nd. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance:

Jemima Dutra, reflections@ninthdistrictpta.org

We're excited to see all the amazing art your students create this year!



October Spotlight: Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA

The Ninth District PTA Communications Team is excited to spotlight Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA for their outstanding work in membership. A special thank you goes out to Nicole Adams, Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA President for her contributions to this article!

The Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA consists of 27 executive board members. The board members divide the work load, in which it helps their association the ability to coordinate programs, events and volunteers more efficiently.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary has over 500 students currently enrolled.

They were able to gain over 500 PTA members in a very short period, because they believe that utilizing a strong communication platform and having a membership drive at the same time during each fall season is key. They focus their attention on a goal to support PTAs mission of engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for the kids.

As part of their membership drive they provide their members with the understanding of what PTA does, and where the money is allocated. Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA believes that demonstrating how they help the children makes a difference in membership recruitment.

One of the incentives they have is that when a classroom hits 100% membership, then they will be rewarded with a popsicle party. **This year they all reached 100%**. When the PTA reached their membership goal, all the students received a fun assembly that integrated education and character building.



Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA sets a new membership goal each year. The set number of members they are looking for excites the parents and community to help reach that goal.

This year they are planning several events and activities for the students. They provide choral music experience, their Sage Garden, cooking activities, candy grams, popsicle parties, a Bubble Assembly with STEAM theme, school field trip shirts, science night, art modules, reading periodicals, a typing program, a back to school and end of school park party, and so much more. They also help pay for the buses for the school field trips.

They are currently working on the Fall Harvest Festival. The event is free for all students. The carnival will have games, prizes, physical activity, crafts and a meal.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA President, Nicole Adams said, "As president of the Holmes Elementary School PTA and a working mom, I know how important it is to participate in our child's education and school community. It can also get overwhelming. A philosophy I regularly share with my Board is that 'everybody needs a buddy.' When time is tight or we are tired from the work day, knowing you have someone to work with on a project or at events makes the experience rewarding and fun. For associations having recruitment challenges, help everybody get a buddy to make the experience less daunting."

Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary PTA leaves no student behind!

If you know of a PTA/PTSA that should be spotlighted in our November Newsletter please fill out this [Google Form](#) and submit it by midnight of October 27, 2025.

– by Sonya Vargas (Vice President, Communications Director)
communications@ninthdistrictpta.org

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is one of the oldest, and largest drug prevention awareness campaigns. This year it is celebrated on October 23 - 31, 2025.

You can get involved through various activities, and events at your school and community.

For more information and exciting activity suggestions, please visit: <https://www.redribbon.org/>

California State Scholarships

California State Scholarships can give California kids up to \$1,500 for higher education. For more information, click this link: <https://www.kpbs.org/news/education/2025/09/09/state-scholarships-give-california-kids-up-to-1-500-for-higher-education>

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15, 2025: <https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

Native Ways of Knowing Book Club

The 2025-2026 Schedule: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/25268529/>

Register here to join: <https://sdcoe.k12oms.org/902-224595>

2025-2026 California Indian Education Calendar of Events

Click here for the Calendar of Events: <https://bit.ly/CIEFA-Cal>

2025-2026 SDCOE California Indian Education Resource Guide

Click here to access the Resource Guide Flipping Book: https://bit.ly/CIE_ResourceGuide

California Native American Studies Model Curriculum

Learn about the new California Native American Studies Model Curriculum here: <https://bit.ly/NASMC-Info>

Seeds of Native Knowledge: Culturally Sustaining Teaching Institutes

For more information click here: <https://bit.ly/SeedsofNativeKnowledge>
Registration opens on October 1, 2025

How did you like this email?

Stay connected and follow us on social media!



Ninth District PTA | San Diego County Office of Education 6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A |
San Diego, CA 92111 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!